

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /106 W
-----048556 082045Z /45

R 071619Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7096
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USEEC AND USOECD
GENEVA ALSO FOR ECOSOC DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (OVERVIEW COMMITTEE)

REF: (A) STATE 161676; (B) USUN 02619

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON HEAD OF MFA OFFICE FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. SOURCE SAID THAT GOA HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH MUCH OF U.S. THINKING BUT THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES DUE, FOR THE MOST PART, TO AUSTRIAN VIEW THAT U.S. POSITION IS TOO RIGID.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, GOA IS "IN A FOG" ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE COW. THERE SHOULD BE A MIDDLE-WAY BETWEEN A NEGOTIATING BODY AND A MERE DISCUSSION GROUP, HE SAID;
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BUT JUST AS THE COW SHOULD NOT BE MERELY AN ECONOMIC SEMINAR IT CANNOT BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR CHANGING VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE IMF. HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE UNSATISFACTORY MAY MEETING OF THE COW AND WONDERED IF THERE WAS MUCH POINT IN GOING THROUGH THE EXERCISE AGAIN. HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE DISCUSSIONS OF THE FUTURE OF THE COW DURING THE GENEVA ECOSOC MEETING AND HOPED

ITS FUTURE WOULD THEN BE A LITTLE CLEARER. HE SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE G-77 WERE MORE INTERESTED IN UNCTAD V AT THIS TIME THAN IN THE COW. THIS COMMENT AND OTHERS ESTABLISHED THAT THE SOURCE WAS WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE JUNE 21 MEETING OF THE "ECONOMIC VINCI GROUP" (REFTEL B).

3. GOA BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE SHOULD CONTINUE BUT IS NOT SURE THE COW IS NECESSARY. IF IT DOES MEET AGAIN, IT MAY PROVIDE A CHANCE TO NARROW DIFFERENCES AND IDENTIFY ISSUES, BUT IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE RESULTS WOULD NOT BE ANY BETTER THAN IN MAY.

4. WITH RESPECT TO IDEAS ADVANCED IN PARA. 8 REFTEL A SOURCE SAID:

--- 8A. GOA AGREES IN PRINCIPLE BUT IS IT POSSIBLE TO DO THIS OR WILL THE ATTEMPT TURN OUT TO BE, IN EFFECT, A CONTINUATION OF THE MAY MEETING?
--- 8B. GOA AGREES;
--- 8C. GOA POSITION IS RESERVED AT THIS POINT;
--- 8D. GOA GENERALLY HAS NO PROBLEM WITH THESE IDEAS BUT IS AWARE OF G-77 POSITION THAT ANOTHER MEETING MUST WORK FROM WELL-PREPARED AND WELL-CONSIDERED DOCUMENTS. GOA WOULD NOT REQUIRE DOCUMENTS NOR INCLUDE THEM. U.S. POSITION IS A BIT RIGID.
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--- 8E. GOA WOULD PREFER TO SAY THAT PRESENCE OF POLICY OFFICIALS FROM LDC CAPITALS WOULD BE WELCOME. HERE WAS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF U.S. INFLEXIBILITY. TALKS COULD BE USEFUL EVEN IF POLICY OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT.

5. SOURCE, MENTIONING THAT HE HAD HEARD ABOUT TALKS BETWEEN U.S. OFFICIALS AND JAZAIRY IN WASHINGTON AFTER MAY MEETING, ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE TALKS. OUR RECORDS HAVE NOTHING ON THEM AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHAT WE CAN REPLY ON THIS MATTER.

6. CDMMENT: THE AUSTRIAN VIEWS REPORTED ABOVE REFLECT THEIR TYPICAL DESIRE TO REMAIN AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE WHENEVER POSSIBLE ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. WHILE GOA IS APPARENTLY SCEPTICAL ABOUT NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL FORUM SUCH AS THE COW FOR DEALING WITH NORTH/SOUTH MATTERS, THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE IN WHATEVER SETTING.

7. CORRECTION: PARA 4, ---8C. ABOVE SHOULD READ
GOA POSITION IS RESERVED ON THIS POINT;

WOLF

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Message Attributes

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